

CLASSROOM RESOURCES FOR THANKSGIVING, 2011

Background resources for all grade levels:

- Article and Video link on Thanksgiving from history.com - <http://www.history.com/content/thanksgiving/the-first-thanksgiving>
- Interactive website that allows students to tour a re-enacted village that actually exists in Massachusetts. The history is accurate and the Wampanoag and colonists are well portrayed. www.plimoth.org
- From the National Museum of the American Indian - <http://www.nmai.si.edu/education>
(Click on the "print resources" link on the left, check out the Thanksgiving Poster and the Thanksgiving Study Guide.)
- "Deconstructing the Myths of the First Thanksgiving" and more - http://www.oyate.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=69
- Wampanoag tribe information - <http://www.wampanoagtribe.net/Pages/index>
- "Rethinking Thanksgiving: Myths and Misgivings" from Rethinking Schools, Fall 2009, Vol. 24, Number 1. The article has some excellent background information and links to other resources. http://www.rethinkingschools.org/archive/24_01/24_01_thanksgiving.shtml
- In Memoriam in honor of Chief Jake Swamp, a member of the Wolf Clan whose Mohawk name "Tekaronhianeken" means "where two skies come together" and sub-chief of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) confederacy, passed away Oct. 15, 2010 in Massena, N.Y. He was 68. Swamp was a diplomat, author, teacher, chief, husband, father, grandparent, great-grandparent and friend to many. These words of thanks are taken from his book ***Giving Thanks A Native American Good Morning Message:***
To be a human being is an honor, and we offer thanksgiving for all the gifts of life. Mother Earth, we thank you for giving us everything we need.
Thank you, good foods from Mother Earth, our life sustainers, for making us happy when we are hungry. Fruits and berries, we thank you for your color and sweetness. We are thankful to good medicine herbs, for healing us when we are sick.
- We Shall Remain – PBS video series – can be accessed on-line. Episode One: After the Mayflower http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/weshallremain/the_films/episode_1_trailer

Lesson idea for primary grades:

- Have students ask their families or research harvest festivals, considering: Where does our food come from? How are we similar to our neighbors?

Model lessons for middle grades:

- Model Lesson for Language Arts/Social Studies, Grades 5-8 (adaptable for both younger and older) Based on the book 1621 A New Look At Thanksgiving by Catherine O'Neill Grace and Margaret M. Bruchac, With Plimoth Plantation. [Thanksgiving](#)
- Model lesson for Social Studies, Middle School - [Colonization and American Indian Perspectives](#)
Lesson includes these questions....

- What have you learned about the first Thanksgiving?
- Why is it important to look at issues from multiple perspectives?
- What are some of the reasons American Indians might have a different view regarding how Thanksgiving has been traditionally taught and celebrated in our schools?

Model lesson for high school:

- Model Lesson for Social Studies, High School - [The Colonization Era – An Interview with Dr. James Loewen](#)